

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace paragraph number [0117] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0117] The processes and systems described in Sections I-II may be embodied as computer program instructions logic and data stored in machine-readable media in a programmed computer 610. Loan data may be downloaded from a database 612 associated with a server system 614 and stored in the computer 610 for operator analysis. The computer 610 may include a screen display and operator input device (e.g., keyboard), along with other financial analysis tools, to allow data in the model to be manipulated and to allow outputs of the modeled to be viewed, stored, and communicated to other systems. Loan data may include, for example, a list of individual loans, with each individual loan having one or more sortable data fields associated therewith. The sortable data fields may include, for example, information related to particular grouping characteristics associated with each individual loan. Such grouping characteristics may include, for example, one or more product characteristics associated with each loan, the documentation type of each loan, or the loan servicer associated with each individual loan. The sortable data fields may further include the control variables associated with each of the individual loans. The control variables may include, for example, one or more of the explanatory loan variables described in Section I, or one or more risk characteristics associate with each of the individual loans in the portfolio. The sortable data fields may be used in conjunction with program logic to determine the study group in response to one or more user inputs regarding a common grouping characteristic. The sortable data fields may further be employed to determine the control group. For example, the control group may be determined automatically according to an optimization operation, such as a linear regression operation or other operation. Alternatively, the control group may be determined in response to user input regarding the common grouping characteristic associated with the study group, a different grouping characteristic, or a combination thereof. The sortable data fields may also be used to determine the vector of control variables. For example, the vector of control variables may be determined automatically

according to an optimization operation, such as a linear regression operation or other operation. Alternatively, the vector of control variables may be determined in response to user input. The program logic may additionally determine whether to exclude the study group from or include the study group in the control group. For example, the program logic may analyze the individual loans in each cell to determine whether an excessive number of individual loans from the study group is present, or whether excluding the individual loans in the study group from the control group would result in an excessive number of empty cells or cells otherwise containing an insufficient number of loans to provide an accurate estimate. In response to the analysis, the program logic may, for example, automatically determine whether to exclude the study group from or include the study group in the control group. Additionally or alternatively, the program logic may output a message or warning indicating the results of the analysis. Output from the program logic may also be transmitted to other engines or tools connected to or implemented by the server 614, such as a credit risk pricing tool 620, a loss forecasting tool 622, a loss severity analysis tool 624, an early warning portfolio analysis tool 626, a credit metrics tool 628, an automated underwriting engine 630, one or more due diligence tools 632, one or more loan workout and modification tools 634, and so on, as discussed above in Section I.